


[Click here](#) Homemade Apple Pie Plate

[Home](#) · [News](#) · [Sports](#) · [Business](#) · [Features](#) · [Louisville Scene](#) · [Classifieds](#) · [Jobs](#) · [Cars](#) · [Homes](#) · [Marketplace](#) · [Contact Us](#)
Business » [News](#)

Friday, November 22, 2002

Spending of tobacco settlement faulted Health groups say Kentucky lags in anti-smoking efforts

By Patrick Howington

phowington@courier-journal.com
The Courier-Journal

States with the highest lung-cancer rates spend the smallest amount of their tobacco funds on programs to control smoking, according to an analysis by two national health-care organizations.

The organizations singled out Kentucky, noting it has a fairly low rate of spending for tobacco control despite having the nation's highest incidence of lung cancer among men and women.

Kentucky received about \$26 per capita last year from the 1998 settlement between states and cigarette companies but spent only 84 cents of it to control tobacco use, according to a study published last month in the New England Journal of Medicine.

That is far less than the \$6.42 that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends Kentucky should spend.

Fifteen states spent less per capita on smoking-control programs than Kentucky, according to the Journal's figures. Nationally, states spent an average of \$3.49 per capita on tobacco control.

Cancer Care Inc. and the CHEST Foundation, two organizations that held a teleconference on the subject yesterday, urged state legislatures to devote more of their settlement funds to anti-smoking programs. Yesterday was Great American Smokeout Day.

The organizations said more smoking-control spending would more than pay off in reduced health-care costs.

"The multibillion-dollar Master Settlement Agreement is not living up to its promise," said Dr. Peter Bach, a pulmonologist and epidemiologist at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and a co-author of the journal article. "The states are missing a tremendous opportunity to save lives."

UPDATE

Last we knew:

Kentucky chose agriculture programs for half of its first \$360 million from a settlement with tobacco companies to compensate states for tobacco-related health-care costs. States have been criticized before by anti-tobacco groups for not devoting more of the settlement money toward programs to stop smoking.

The latest:

Cancer Care Inc. and the CHEST Foundation singled out Kentucky for its relatively low rate of spending on controlling tobacco use while having the highest incidence of lung cancer in the country.

Why it's news:

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends Kentucky should spend \$6.42 per capita to control smoking, far more than the 84 cents per capita being spent.

For more info:

www.lungcancer.org
kytobaccotrust.state.ky.us

Subscribe
Click [here](#)
to get the
latest
delivered
your door



The \$246 billion settlement agreement was intended to compensate states for their smoking-related health-care costs, and many people expected a large part of the money to pay for smoking-prevention programs. But states don't have to spend it that way, and have directed most of the money to other areas.

Many states have devoted a large percentage of their allotment to health programs, while others have built roads, youth centers, schools, jails and so on.

Kentucky earmarked half of its first \$360 million in settlement funds to agriculture-related programs. That included \$40 million in direct payments to farmers who lost tobacco income, while the rest went to broader programs. They include a \$91 million effort to help tobacco farmers develop other crops that has been called a national model for tobacco states.

Much of the remainder went to health care, including \$11 million for lung-cancer research and \$34 million for a high-risk insurance pool for the chronically ill. Nearly \$56 million was devoted to Gov. Paul Patton's earlychildhood-development initiative.

And \$5.5 million was allocated to Kentucky's first statewide anti-smoking campaign.

John-Mark Hack, director of the Office of Agricultural Policy, said the state is spending its settlement windfall appropriately.

"I feel very comfortable with the investments of tobacco-settlement resources . . . in what is the largest state-financed agricultural diversification effort, the health of our youngest citizens, and extending affordable health care to people who are in most need of it, in addition to financing the very first tobacco-prevention effort the state's ever had," he said.

While Kentucky has strides to make in the prevention of tobacco use, Hack said, economic reforms may have to come first in a state with a strong tobacco culture.

"Until we're able to provide our farm families the tools that they need to break their economic addiction to tobacco," he said, "we're really not going to be able to make much sustainable progress at breaking the physical addiction to tobacco that plagues so many Kentuckians."



[^^ Back to top](#)

[Home](#) · [News](#) · [Sports](#) · [Business](#) · [Features](#) · [Louisville Scene](#) · [Classifieds](#) · [Jobs](#) · [Cars](#) · [Homes](#) · [Marketplace](#) · [Conta](#)



[Click here](#) Homemade Apple Pie Plate



Copyright 2002 The Courier-Journal.

Use of this site signifies your agreement to the [Terms of Service](#) (updated 8/7/2001).

Send questions and comments to [The Webmaster](#).